

does he seem to consider that his "primary" mode of epithelial growth by epithelioid transformation of formative cells is largely concerned in the begetting of the cancer-elements. And even here, it must be borne in mind, such cell-genesis is simply a *mode of growth of epithelium*, since Rindfleisch carefully points out that such epithelioid transformation of formative cells from the connective tissue layer can only take place by contact with pre-existing true epithelium. And even in hard cancer he distinctly says that "the *active* behaviour of the glandular epithelium . . . is and remains the peculiar source of morbid action." (*l. c.*, p. 167.) For Rindfleisch thus, as for Waldeyer, all cancers are of epithelial nature and origin, and grow after the manner of ordinary epithelial tissue, only Rindfleisch admits an epithelioid transformation of leucocytes as one factor in such normal growth. Classen, on the contrary, if we understand him aright, cuts loose entirely from the idea of cancer being *necessarily* of epithelial origin, and recognizes an independent cancerous transformation of leucocytes, whose cell-type will be epithelial if the site of the original morbid action happen to be in contiguity with normal epithelial tissue, or of the character of connective tissue, if the same site be in a tissue derived from the middle germinal layer. While, therefore, both Rindfleisch and Classen recognize the bald fact of the direct transformation of a leucocyte into a cancer-cell, their ideas of its signification, and of the general physiology of the morbid growth, are essentially different.

Dr. Woodward next proceeds to the original part of the lecture, which consists of a detailed description of the anatomy of cancer, illustrated by photomicrographs from sections of tumours, exhibited by means of a stereopticon. Searching through these anatomical details for Dr. Woodward's position on the vexed question of the histogenesis of the cancer-cells, we find that, following Rindfleisch, he admits, as a matter of fact, both epithelial cell-multiplication and direct transformation of leucocytes into cancer-elements; but there he stops, declining to uphold or advance any hypothesis of the general scheme of cancer-development as a pathological process. We fully commend his caution, but at the same time we utterly fail to see how this lecture, instructive though it be to those unfamiliar with the present state of knowledge on the subject, fulfils the high requirement of the "Toner Lecture" prospectus, of "containing some *new truth fully established by experiment or observation.*"

E. C.

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ART. XXVII.—*On the Government of the Retreat for the Insane, at Hartford, Connecticut.* Printed for private use. Hartford, Connecticut, 1874.

WE once thought that the question agitated in this pamphlet had been set at rest by the results of an abundant experience, both here and abroad. It seems to be a characteristic of our times to consider nothing as settled, and to reopen old controversies, though without the aid of additional knowledge. It is a cheap way of distinction, attractive to a certain class of minds, to revive an obsolete doctrine or practice, and invest the arguments in its favour with an air of novelty, while completely ignoring those which sealed its fate with a former generation. This is easily done, and makes the desired impression on those whose vanity is flattered by the idea that differing from the simple souls who cling to an established belief is a proof of superior wisdom. It would seem as if half the intellectual labour in the world was used in combating errors

supposed to have been killed, but rising up from time to time, refusing to stay killed.

The question with which this pamphlet is concerned is closely connected with the proper working of a very interesting class of our institutions—the hospitals for the insane. It is a fact, though its significance is but dimly seen by the outside world, that their success depends very much on the manner in which their service is organized. A hospital should be like a piece of machinery, in which every part holds certain relations to every other part, and all act harmoniously in the production of a special end. Unlike a machine, however, the forces required in the management of a hospital can be kept in their proper relations and adjusted as occasions require, only by a controlling force paramount to every other. The thing to be wrought out is definite and simple, and every movement, many and diverse as they are, all tend to its accomplishment. This being so, it is obvious that the whole establishment should be guided and controlled by a single spirit, competent to the work and responsible for the result. If the superintendent is just what he should be, the impress of his character should be seen in every direction, in every architectural arrangement, in every contrivance for occupying the attention of his patients, in every appliance for maintaining their physical powers in the best hygienic condition, and in the ways and manners of every one engaged in the service. Nothing can be more preposterous than the idea that any of the agencies employed in effecting the purposes of a hospital can be well managed by joint but independent powers. Any attempt of this kind must inevitably be followed by collisions and an imperfect result. These views are strongly confirmed by the testimony of many present and past superintendents in letters addressed to Dr. Denny in reference to the position he has taken.

The idea that more than one independent power should be employed in the executive duties of hospitals for the insane, must have arisen from the crudest conceptions of the nature of the work allotted to them, and a glance at their history abundantly shows that such is the fact. Not many years ago insanity, considered as an object of medical treatment, was regarded almost exclusively in its physical aspects, and in the little account that was made of the mental affection, the idea of depravity and unlicensed passion was more prominent than that of disease. From such views sprang the arrangements usually adopted in early times for the management of a hospital for the insane. The executive officer whose authority was paramount in the house was the steward or warden, who organized and directed the service, who ordered whatever was done or not done for the patients, excepting in the matter of drugs, and who ruled over all, sane and insane, with an autocratic hand. He might, or as is most likely, he might not, have had any knowledge of the nature or manifestations of insanity. Nor did he much need it, for the whole moral treatment, all of which was entrusted to him, consisted chiefly in imposing such restraint or punishment as the case might seem to require, while the medical treatment was prescribed by some physician of the neighbourhood, who visited the house two or three times a week and ordered the sort of medication that happened to be in vogue, such as bleeding, purgation, cold applications to the head, and shaving of the scalp, in the recent cases, with systematic purgation all around in the spring. Under such management the most frightful abuses were unavoidable. To the rude and ignorant master of the house the stormy manifestations of disease seemed to be only outbreaks of bad temper and angry passion, to be met by straight waistcoats, shower-baths, low diet, and the fiercest threats, if not blows. Luckily, the source of these evils came to be recognized at last, and the proper remedy found by a change in the organization of the service,

whereby the hospital was placed in charge of a medical man qualified by a suitable training and high professional aims, who governed the whole. He resided in the house, appointed the attendants, prescribed their duties, was conversant with all the details of the service, exacted implicit obedience to his authority, and in every arrangement had reference to the accomplishment, in the completest manner, of the special ends of the institution. Not that this change occurred at once, *per saltum*, as it were, for in most cases there was a transition period, when the steward continued to be independent in some particulars, and the managers or guardians occasionally took a turn at the executive wheel, as they do to this day at the Blockley, in Philadelphia, and at Blackwell's Island, in New York, where, for instance, they appoint and discharge attendants when some needy protégé is to be provided for. Our hospitals having come into existence towards the close of this period were, with a few exceptions, organized after the improved methods. Among the few in which some features of the old system were retained was the "Retreat," a corporate institution at Hartford, Connecticut; and though they have ever been a source of trouble and bad feelings, yet the board of managers has never been willing to recognize the entire and exclusive control of the superintendent. A year or two ago, Dr. Butler, after thirty years of faithful service, resigned, and Dr. Denny, eminently fitted by character and training for the work before him, was appointed his successor. In order to prevent a renewal of the old grievances, this gentleman endeavored to obtain from the Board of Managers such an alteration or construction of the by-laws as would give him a control paramount to and independent of every other. Failing to obtain it, he promptly resigned his charge.

The pamphlet before us is occupied chiefly with correspondence between Dr. Denny and the Board of Managers, and letters from many eminent superintendents, thoroughly sustaining him in the position he had assumed. It constitutes a valuable contribution to the cause of hospital improvement, and we hope its lessons will be carefully pondered by all who are connected with the direction of these institutions.

We do not suppose that the stand taken by Dr. Denny will be universally approved of. Some will contend that for all practical purposes he was thoroughly independent, and that it was a matter of caprice or fastidiousness to seek for control beyond his special sphere. Others, with little regard for the merits of the question, are constitutionally opposed to any one-man power, and they, of course, will not be likely to uphold him. With these it would be useless to argue, but to the former we take the opportunity to present some considerations that may have escaped their notice, for the functions of the superintendent are so peculiar that their whole breadth and scope are not readily perceived by the ordinary observer.

In the little world of which he is the head no person or thing is foreign to the single and special purpose which it is his business to accomplish—the restoration of the disordered mind. Not the cook in the kitchen, nor the farmer on the grounds, nor the mechanic in the shops, nor the engineer in charge of the boilers, should work independently of his oversight and control. And yet if the views of the Hartford managers are correct—if any of the employés could be properly placed beyond his immediate control—it might certainly be supposed to be these. But let us look a little more closely at the parts these persons have to perform in the daily economy of a hospital. No one will deny that the efficiency of a hospital depends very much on a well-ordered kitchen. Not only the present comfort and satisfaction of the patient, but his final restoration, are involved in a supply of food intelligently cooked, skilfully varied,

promptly and properly served. Work on the farm or in the shops, judiciously managed, is a restorative agency of incalculable value. The proper distribution of air and heat is scarcely surpassed by anything else, as everybody knows, in its hygienic influence. And yet in a hospital governed like the "Retreat" the Superintendent's wishes in regard to these things may be imperfectly met, if not completely frustrated, simply because the persons concerned in them are not responsible to him. If he enters the kitchen it is only on sufferance, and if his directions are followed it is only as a matter of favour, not of right. If he finds his patients when out at work are badly treated or neglected by the farm hands, his complaints may be treated as unreasonable or whimsical, and no amendment follows. If the duty of warming or ventilating the house is badly done, he may be powerless to make it any better. And the reason for all this is obvious enough. The Superintendent fails to obtain the best performance of duties of the highest importance to his success, because the persons employed for the purpose are accountable to somebody else. They look for control and direction to one who alone has the power to enforce his wishes by the strongest of arguments—summary discharge. Very likely, flagrant offences, highly improper behaviour, would be suitably noticed when reported, but this implies that the Superintendent must appeal to another for the redress of an evil which is frustrating the very object which it is his special business to accomplish. All this tends to lower him in the estimation of those around him; and by impairing the prestige of his office, his power for good is materially diminished. For let it be understood that he rules his little world with a divided empire; that in certain quarters there is a power fully equal to his own; that his word is not law in every part of it, and from that moment all true discipline departs, confidence is impaired, and his hands are crippled.

There is another aspect of the question which furnishes a conclusive argument in favour of these views. The material interests of a hospital require that there should be but one head, ordering its affairs by an intelligent appreciation of its resources and their judicious application to the various means that are employed to promote its purposes. How can such a result be expected when two heads are using those resources with little if any reference to each other? How can one appropriate money for a piece of furniture, or a carriage, or an aquarium, for the gratification of his patients, while, for anything he may know, every available means may be required by the other to pay for fancy stock, or new agricultural implements, or repairs on the kitchen? It is for the Superintendent to decide, and for him alone, between conflicting wants, and to say which shall be met at once and which postponed. Even in regard to the work on the farm, which may seem at first sight quite remote from his special sphere of duty, his supreme control may be required to direct it in the manner best calculated to promote the good of the patients. He wishes, for instance, the amplest supply of fruits, flowers, and all the delights of the garden. The steward believes that such things do not pay, and lays out for crops of mangolds and potatoes, hay and fodder. The one believes the farm should furnish an abundant supply of milk as a thing eminently conducive to economy and good health. The other prefers to turn his crops into some other shape. We might multiply these illustrations of the necessity of a supreme undivided control on the part of the Superintendent, responsible of course to the Managers; but if these are not sufficient to convince every fair-minded man, it would be useless to mention any more, and here we leave the subject, relying on the good sense of our readers to lead them to a just conclusion.

We cannot forego the opportunity to render to Dr. Denny our thanks for this noble vindication of the right and true; and in saying this we express, we

doubt not, the sentiment of the profession at large. Such devotion to a principle, involving as it did the sacrifice of a valuable appointment, will be held in grateful remembrance as long as any respect shall remain for elevated aims, an honourable ambition, and a triumph over mean and mercenary considerations.

I. R.

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ART. XXVIII.—*Lectures on the Diseases of Infancy and Childhood.* By CHARLES WEST, M.D., F.R.C.P., Physician to the Hospital for Sick Children. Fifth American from the Sixth revised and enlarged English edition. 8vo. pp. 678. Philadelphia: Henry C. Lea, 1874.

THIS book represents the experience of one who has been peculiarly fortunate in having an extensive hospital and private practice in children's diseases, extending through more than a quarter of a century, and whose clinical deductions are confirmed by the records of nearly 2000 cases and 600 post-mortem examinations. Knowing this, it is with increased interest that we turn to a new edition of it to learn what influence changes in medical opinion have exerted upon the author's practice.

Although we find Dr. West is unwilling to believe that all his former observations were erroneous, and that his old faith was entirely misplaced, yet he frankly acknowledges that his practice now differs much from what it was a quarter of a century ago; that he depletes less, that he has less faith in mercury, that he employs antimony more rarely, that he has more confidence in Nature's powers, less reliance on his own resources. Yet he still believes that mercury possesses a peculiar and *specific* power in controlling acute inflammation of the serous membranes of the chest and abdomen; and that both acute pleurisy and acute peritonitis yield to a combination of calomel and opium more speedily than to opium alone. He believes that in severe inflammation of the mucous membrane of the large intestine—in other words, in dysentery in childhood—the part borne by mercury in its cure is at least of as much moment as that of opium, with which it is right to combine it; but the latter alone will fail when the two together will save the patient.

In laryngeal inflammation, or true croup, after the first active symptoms have subsided, Dr. West holds that mercury often plays an important part in its more chronic stages; and he still holds to the belief that in some forms of chronic non-tuberculous consolidation of the lung, recovery is expedited by the careful employment of mercurials. He does not regard mercury as of any service in acute affections of the pulmonary tissue, nor in any form of bronchitis, but still regards it as of service in acute pericarditis.

These are not the views usually taught at the present day, indeed quite the contrary are promulgated by the most recent American authors (Austin Flint, J. F. Meigs, and J. Lewis Smith), but coming from such high authority, and as the result of an extensive clinical experience, they certainly claim from us a careful and unbiassed test at the bedside.

This book contains such rich stores of clinical experience that we find ourselves well repaid in looking over its pages, particularly those concerning the treatment of diseases. In discussing the treatment of the formidable head symptoms which usher in the eruptive fevers, the author says:—

"I have of late years tried the use of the wet sheet in these cases, and with results all the more satisfactory, since they are obtained without any of that depression of the vital powers inseparable from the free abstraction of blood.